

NEWS RELEASE: Congressman Robin Hayes - 8th District,
North Carolina



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Congressman Robin Hayes Supports Plan to Promote Increased National Security

*Hayes Supports Efforts to Strengthen U.S.
Homeland from Terrorist Missile Attack*

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Robin Hayes (NC-8), a member of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee (HASC), today commended the decision by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to increase U.S. protection from missile attacks. DoD today announced that they would begin fielding initial missile defense capabilities in 2004-2005 to meet the near-term ballistic missile threat to the U.S. and U.S. resources. This initial capability will build on the planned Pacific Missile Defense Testbed and serve as a starting point for fielding improved, layered missile defense capabilities later.

“We live in a changing world with changing threats,” said Hayes. **“We must rise to meet these new challenges to our nation’s security. Unfortunately, the sad reality is that many of our enemies, including terrorists, are making major advances in their Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) programs. It is only a matter of time before they have the technology and ability to put these WMD’s on missiles bound for the United States. We must work to defend ourselves against this eventuality. The deployment of missile defenses is an essential element of our overall national security policy to transform U.S. defense and deterrence capabilities to meet emerging and evolving threats.”**

The composition of missile defenses, including the number, type, and location of systems deployed, will change over time to meet the changing threat and take advantage of technological developments. This approach includes the use of prototype and test assets to provide early capability, while improving the effectiveness of defensive capabilities over time.

The initial set of capabilities planned for 2004-2005 will include:

- up to 20 ground-based interceptors capable of intercepting and destroying intercontinental ballistic missiles during the midcourse phase of flight located at Ft. Greely in Alaska (16 interceptors) and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California (4 interceptors);
- up to 20 sea-based interceptors employed on existing Aegis ships to intercept ballistic missiles in the first few minutes after they are launched, during the boost and ascent phases of flight;
- deployment of air-transportable Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) systems to intercept short and medium range ballistic missiles;
- land, sea and space-based sensors, including existing early warning satellites, an upgraded radar now located at Shemya, Alaska, a new sea-based X-band radar, upgraded existing early warning radars in the United Kingdom and Greenland and use of radars and other sensors now on Aegis cruisers and destroyers.

These initial capabilities may be improved through additional measures, such as:

- additional ground-and-sea based interceptors and PAC-3 units;
- the Theater High Altitude Area Defense system to intercept short and medium range missiles at high altitude;
- availability of the developmental Airborne Laser aircraft that will use directed energy to destroy a ballistic missile in the boost phase;
- a common family of boost-phase and midcourse interceptors for land and sea basing;
- enhanced radars and other sensor capabilities;
- development and testing of space-based defenses, specifically space-based kinetic energy (hit to kill) interceptors and advanced target tracking satellites.

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